

The invention claimed:

1. A portable electronic device comprising:

5 a user input device comprising an elongated element having a first end and a second end disposed opposite said first end, wherein the user input device has a first configuration in which the elongated element is nested within a recess defined in the surface of the portable electronic device and having a size and shape conforming to the surface contour of the portable  
10 electronic device whereby the elongated element forms a part of the surface of the portable electronic device in the region of the recess, and a second configuration in which the elongated element is in an extended position with respect to the surface of the portable electronic device wherein in the second configuration the user input device is operable as a joystick.

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2. The portable electronic device as defined in claim 1 wherein said elongated element is hingedly connected at its second end for pivotal movement about the hinge axis wherein said elongated element is folded about the hinge axis in said first configuration and unfolded about the hinge  
20 axis in said second configuration.

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3. The portable electronic device as defined in claim 2 wherein said recess is defined in the surface of a navigational device carried on the portable electronic device.

4. The portable electronic device as defined in claim 1 wherein the user input device is arranged to operate as an analog user input device.

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5. The portable electronic device as defined in claim 1 that is pocket sized and for handheld usage.

6. The portable electronic device as defined in claim 2 wherein said elongated element is mounted at its second end for pivotal movement wherein

pivotal movement of the user input device is restricted in the first configuration and the user device pivots freely in the second configuration.

7. The portable electronic device as defined in claim 1 that is operable as  
5 a mobile cellular telephone.

8. A user input device for a portable electronic device as defined in claim 1.

10 9. A user input device for a portable electronic device, comprising:

an elongated element having a first end and a second end disposed opposite said first end, wherein the user input device has a first configuration in which the elongated element is nested within a recess defined in the  
15 surface of the portable electronic device and having a size and shape conforming to the surface contour of the portable electronic device whereby the elongated element forms a part of the surface of the portable electronic device in the region of the recess, and a second configuration in which the elongated element is in an extended orientation with respect to the surface of  
20 the portable electronic device wherein in the second configuration the user input device is operable as a joystick.

10. An electronic device, comprising:

25 a user input device comprising an elongated element having a first end and a second end disposed opposite said first end, wherein the user input device has a first configuration in which the elongated element is nested within a recess defined in the surface of the portable electronic device in a restricted inoperative position, said elongated element having a size and  
30 shape conforming to the surface contour of the portable electronic device whereby the elongated element forms a part of the surface of the portable electronic device in the region of the recess, and a second configuration in which the elongated element is in an extended operative orientation with

respect to the surface of the portable electronic device wherein in the second configuration the user input device is operable as a joystick.

11. The electronic device as defined in claim 10 comprising means for  
5 unfolding the elongated element to its extended orientation in response to a first user action and for folding the elongated element to its nested position in response to a reversal of the first user action.

12. The electronic device as defined in claim 11 wherein said elongated  
10 element is hingedly connected at its second end for pivotal movement about the hinge axis wherein said elongated element is unfolded about the hinge axis to its extended operative orientation and folded about the hinge axis to its nested inoperative position.

13. The electronic device as defined in claim 8 that is pocket sized and for  
15 handheld usage.

14. The electronic device as defined in claim 13 that is operable as a  
20 mobile cellular telephone.

15. The electronic device as defined in claim 10 that is operable as a  
gaming device.

16. A user input device for an electronic device as defined in claim 10.  
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17. A user input device for an electronic device, comprising:

an elongated element having a first end and a second end disposed  
opposite said first end, wherein the user input device has a first configuration  
30 in which the elongated element is folded into a recess defined in the surface of the electronic device whereby the elongated element forms a part of the surface of the portable electronic device in the region of the recess, and a second configuration in which the elongated element is in an unfolded extended orientation with respect to the surface of the electronic device

wherein in the second configuration the user input device is operable as a joystick.